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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/868,040	07/23/2001	Kenichi Otani	209313US3PCT	5365
22850	7590	12/23/2005	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			MAI, TRI M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3727	
DATE MAILED: 12/23/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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1. The Appendix filed 08/29/05 has been entered and considered. The application has been forwarded to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences for decision on the appeal.

2. The examiner would like to offer an explanation to the matter. It is noted the following differences between the amendments.

1) The amendment dated 04/21/03.

*said molded article has corners of an approximately uniform thickness T2 that is greater than a thickness T1 that is not one of said corners*

2) Amendment dated 08/10/04

*said molded articles has corner having center portions of a thickness T2 that is greater than a thickness T1 of a portion that is not a center portion of one of said corners*

3) Appendix dated 08/10/04

*said molded articles has corner of a thickness T2 that is greater than a thickness T1 of a portion that is not one of said corners.*

4) Current appendix dated 08/29/05

*said molded articles has corners having center portions of a thickness T2 that is greater than a thickness T1 of a portion that is not one of said corners*

3. The examiner notes that the that the amendment dated 08/10/04 is not in compliance with 37CFR 1.121, wherein the recitation "having center portions" was not indicated to be a new limitation as compared to the claims at the time of the final rejection. Furthermore, the Appendix dated 08/10/04 did not have this recitation. The examiner would like to note that the Appendix dated 08/10/04 is the version to which the Examiner's Answer is based upon. In view that it would be beneficial to expedite the application since applicant is beyond the time to

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correct the amendment C to put it in compliance with 37CFR 1.121. The examiner submits that the new limitations "having center portions" should not provide any structural differences over the applied art of record, since this limitation was not argued in applicant's Brief. Furthermore, the examiner submits that the recitation "center portions" is broad and does not read over any of the applied art of record. It is noted that Kiechhefer (2530124) has center portions (this is shown as the center points 6) extending peripherally around the base of the container. It with respect to the Clay reference (2042210), it is noted that Clay has center portions (see Fig. 4) at the four corners of the container.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tri M. Mai whose telephone number is (571)272-4541. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Newhouse can be reached on (571)272-4544. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tri M. Mai  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3727

